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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/651,843	08/29/2003	Richard L. Wilder	29757/P-798	8136
22434	7590	01/09/2007	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP			PANDYA, SUNIT	
P.O. BOX 70250			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250			3714	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/09/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/651,843	WILDER ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Sunit Pandya	3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2003.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 20 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
     1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
     2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
     3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/21/05</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Oath/Declaration***

Acknowledgement is made of applicant's Oath/Declaration meets standard required by 35 U.S.C 25 & 115.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 3/21/05 is acknowledged. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98. Accordingly, the examiner has considered the information disclosure statement.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-13, 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Acres et al. (US Patent 6,257,981).

Claims 1, 9: Acres teaches of a system configured to offer a wagering event to a player comprising a multiple gaming terminals, wherein each terminal contains a display to display wagering event information to the players (figure 1, wherein multiple wagering terminals with display for displaying wagering information are disclosed). Acres also teaches each wagering terminal having a player interface to receive input from the players (col. 3: 49-5, figure 1, wherein all the terminals contain a handle bar to receive player input), and a monetary/card interface to accept wager (figure 1 discloses card input for player tracking cards and all gaming terminal must definitely have a monetary input in order to activate the wagering terminal, i.e. a monetary input could be coin input, cash input, credit card input etc.) Acres discloses floor controls that contains a memory to store machine readable game codes and a processor to execute said codes to offer special games and bonuses related to the games to plurality of terminals (col. 7: 7-35).

Claims 2-3: Acres teaches the invention substantially as claimed, however fails to disclose flat panel touch display configured as player interface. However touch screen displays are notoriously well known in the art and would have been obvious for one with ordinary skill in the art to implement touch screen for display to make the machine more cost efficient since by changing the game of the machine everything related to the game will change including the touch screen which could be the player

input, rather than having conventional input, which is hardwired to the machine, and would require a lot more work to replace.

Claims 4-6, 8, 12-13, 16: Acres discloses floor controls that contains a memory to store machine readable game codes and a processor to execute said codes to offer special games and bonuses related to the games to plurality of terminals (col. 7: 7-35), which are remote from the gaming terminals (figure 1, 18 & 28), and are in communications with the gaming terminals via network (figure 1, 38), or any other form of communications, such as Ethernet connection, serial bus connection etc. (col. 8: 65, col. 9: 50, col. 2: 60-67).

Claims 7, 15 & 19: Acres discloses floor controls (control module) that contains a memory to store machine readable game codes and a processor to execute said codes to offer special games and bonuses related to the games to plurality of terminals (col. 7: 7-35), and multiple gaming terminals to concurrently present wagering event to multiple players (figure 1, wherein multiple wagering terminals with display for displaying wagering information are disclosed). Acres teaches of having communication interface connected to the control module to send data to and receive data from the plurality of gaming terminals (figure 1, 18, 28 & 38, col. 6: A & 8: B and related description thereof).

Claims 10-11: Acres teaches of gaming terminals wherein control module comprises a processor, a memory and additional expansion ports which could be used for video adapter as well as audio adapter (figure 2, col. 11: 3).

Claims 17 & 20: Acres teaches of a single controller controlling multiple wagering games (figure 1, 28), wherein the processor is capable to presenting the multiple wagering gaming event at the same time.

Claim 18: Acres teaches wherein the control module could be a personal computer (figure 1, 28 and 32, col. 8: 27-38) and each gaming terminal comprises a display and a player interface (see figure 1, 22, 24).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres et al. as applied to claims 1-13 and 15-20 above, and further in view of Stepan et al. (US Patent 4,621,814).

Claim 14: Acres teaches the invention substantially as claimed however, Acres fails to teach of having multiple gaming terminals within the same housing. Stepan teaches of an amusement device housing that allows multiple gaming devices to be placed in the same housing (see figure 1 and abstract). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Acres to

allow multiple gaming device to be placed in the same housing to reduce space being occupied by the multiple gaming machines.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See attached Notice of References cited page.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunit Pandya whose telephone number is (571) 272-2823. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F: 7:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert OLSZEWSKI can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Art Unit: 3714

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cobett B. Coburn".

**CORBETT B. COBURN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**